**Problems in North-East Bound Trains**

1821. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 448, given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th July, 1998 and state:

(a) the names of the North-East bound trains, which are being monitored for running in time; and

(b) the details of the late running of the above trains during the last six months, alongwith the reasons categorised under Non-Railways and Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Punctuality of trains moving towards the Northeast have been severely affected due to the prevailing law & order situation. Pilot trains, light engines and trolleys are required to run ahead of Mail/Express trains to ensure passenger safety. Since these trains run at a slower speed than Mail/ Express trains, punctuality is being adversely affected. Besides, factors such as agitations, bundhs, bad weather, alarm chain pulling, accidents, equipment failures and human failures etc. also affect the punctuality. The details of loss of punctuality of monitored North-East bound trains in the last six months (June-November '99) are as follows:

| S.No. | Train Number and Name | Reasons for loss of punctuality | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Railway Causes | Non-Railway Causes |
| 1. | 2435/2436 Guwahati Rajdhani Exp. | 12 | 1 |
| 2. | 3143/3144 Darjeeling Mail | 14 | — |
| 3. | 5621/5622 North East Exp. | 69 | 61 |
| 4. | 2423/2424 Guwahati Rajdhani Exp. | 22 | 1 |
| 5. | 3141/3142 Teesta torsha Exp. | 6 | 1 |
| 6. | 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Exp. | 22 | 13 |
| 7. | 5609/5610 Awadh Assam Exp. | 16 | 4 |

| S.No. | Train Number and Name | Reasons for loss of pun duality | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Railway Causes | Non-Railway Causes |
| 8. | 5623/5624 Cochin-Guwahati Exp. | 2 | |
| 9. | 5645/5646 Dadar-Guwahati Exp. | 3 | — |
| 10. | 5657/5658 Kanchenjunga Exp. | 10 | 1 |
| 11. | 5959/5960 Kamrup Exp. | 26 | 24 |

**Cut in Expenditure of the Railways**

1822. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action plan chalked out on the Railways and means to cut expenditure in the railways and set up efforts to mobilise funds for expansion and development works of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Some of the important steps being taken by Railways to cut expenditure and mobilise additionals funds are as under:—

1. Marketing efforts, including freight concession, to capture additional freight traffic.
2. Drives against ticket-less travel.
3. Steps to improve earnings from parcel traffic.
4. Drive for realisation of outstanding dues.
5. Action initiated to mobilise resources through exploitation of railway land and air space, leasing of right of way for optic fibre cable communication, leasing of advertising rights at railway stations and on the rolling stock etc.
6. Zonal Railways instructed to effect savings in revenue expenditure to compensate for unavoidable post-budgetary increases such as revision of thesel prices, hike in power tariff,